

**Rural District Council of
Morpeth**



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1962



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29804127>

To the Chairman and Members of the Morpeth Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you the report of myself and the Chief Public Health Inspector for the year 1962.

As compared with 1961, there was an increase of 29 in the number of births and a decrease of 7 in the number of deaths, giving a standard birth and death rates almost the same as those for the whole of England and Wales. The infant mortality rate increased from 14.87 to 16.78 per 1,000 live births but was substantially lower than the national average rate.

No death occurred from any form of tuberculosis and only 2 new cases of respiratory and one of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year.

Unfortunately there was, again, an increase this time of 11 in the total number of deaths from malignant neoplasms, although there was a decrease of 3 in the number of female deaths.

The increase, was, however, due to a rise in the number of deaths in the older age-groups as, in 1962, there were 14 deaths of persons over the age 75 years while, in 1961, only 3 were in this age-group.

The completion of 82 houses, 71 of which were built by the local authority, is a welcome improvement on the house-building totals of recent years and should do something to ameliorate the housing position, although with 39 houses closed or demolished under the slum clearance programme there was a nett increase of only 43 houses.

The water supply position has improved very markedly over the years and it is estimated that 95% of the houses in the area are now supplied from public mains directly into the houses.

There has been improvement, too, in the sewerage position with the provision of public conveniences at Blakemoor and Lynemouth and the commencement of the installation of a sewerage system for Ulgham. Plans being formulated should bring further improvement in the near future, with additional sewerage schemes at Hepscoth and Thirston and a public convenience at Cambo.

Water supply and sewerage schemes are expensive and often difficult in a rural district but there is considerable satisfaction in considering how much the position has changed for the better, over the years.

In conclusion I should like to thank Councillors for the interest they have shown in the work of the Health Department and express my appreciation of the co-operation received from other departments of the Council and of the conscientious and efficient way in which the Public Health Inspectors have carried out their duties.

I am,
Mr. Chairman and Councillors,
Your obedient Servant,
C.B. McGregor, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health,
Rural District of Morpeth.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health

CATHERINE B. MCGREGOR
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer

KATHLEEN DICK,
M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Public Health)
Housing }
Meat } Inspector

MR. W.G. WEBB,
R.S.I., S.I.J.B.
Meat Inspector's Certs.

Additional P.H. Inspector

MR. J.T. NICHOLSON,
R.S.I., S.I.J.B.
Meat Inspector's Certs.

Offices of the Medical Officer

146, Station Road,
Ashington.

Telephone

Ashington 2287

Offices of the P.H. Inspector

Dacre Street, Morpeth.

Telephone

Morpeth 3255

SECTION A.STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

According to the census taken in April 1961 the population of the Rural District, at that time, was 17,033. The Registrar-General's estimate for mid-1961 was 17,120 and in mid-1962 was 17,510, an increase of 390 over the previous estimate. The fluctuations in the population, which appears to increase and decrease in alternate years, have been mentioned in earlier reports but no explanation of them has been discovered.

The principal industries continue to be agriculture and coal-mining, including open-cast mining.

Area in Acres	79,193
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1962	17,510
Rateable Value	£205,852
One Penny Rate Produces	£2,058
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1962)	5,243

VITAL STATISTICS.

(the figures in brackets are for England and Wales)

BIRTHS.

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	282	153	129
Illegitimate	16	10	6
	298	163	135

Crude Birth Rate	17.02 per 1,000
Standard Birth Rate (Crude Birth Rate x Comparability Factor 1.06) per 1,000	18.04 (18.0)

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	7	4	3
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births ...	22.95	(18.1)	

DEATHS.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
	166	94	72
Crude Death Rate	9.48		
Standard Death Rate (Crude Death Rate x Comparability Factor 1.22) per 1,000	11.57	(11.9)	
Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List)			
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	Nil		

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	Nil	(0.35)
---	-----	--------

<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	2	3

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year.

All infants per 1,000 live births	16.78	(21.6)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	17.73	
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	Nil	

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks.Male Female.

Legitimate	1	1
------------	---	---

Deaths of Infants under 1 week.Male Female.

Legitimate	1	1
------------	---	---

Neonatal Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)	6.71	(15.1)
Early Neonatal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)	6.71	
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live and still births)	29.51	

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Cause of Death	Under 1 day	1 - 6 days	Total under 1 month	1 - 2 months	3 - 5 months	6 - 9 months	Total under 1 year.
Prematurity	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
Lateral Sinus Thrombosis (Infective)	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Congenital Abnormality	-	1	1	-	1	-	2
Asphyxia - Inhalation of vomit	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Total	1	1	2	1	1	1	5

The following table gives the comparative mortality rates during the past ten years.

	19 53	'54	'55	'56	'57	'58	'59	'60	'61	'1962
Infantile Deaths under 1 year	5	4	7	8	8	11	7	15	4	5
Infantile Mortality	16.45	13.75	26.12	28.57	25.08	33.03	23.33	51.9	14.87	16.78

The Registrar-General supplies the following:-

CAUSE OF DEATH.

	Male	Female.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, (other forms)	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	3	2
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	-
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast	-	2
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	-	1
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	15	9
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	1
16. Diabetes	-	-
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	12	14
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	15	9
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	-	-
20. Other Heart Diseases	7	12
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	2	-
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Pneumonia	5	3
24. Bronchitis	6	5
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	1
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	-
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	-
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations	2	-
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	11	6
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	-
34. All other Accidents	2	6
35. Suicide	-	1
36. Homicide and Operations of War	-	-
	94	72

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN MORPETH RURAL DISTRICT.

	Total No.	% of Total Deaths
Diseases of the Heart and Circulation	45	27.11
Malignant Neoplasms	39	23.49
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	26	15.66
Total	110	66.26

5.
SECTION B,

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Newcastle General Hospital and additional facilities are available at Ashington General Hospital.

The extent to which these facilities have been utilised is shown below.

Specimens sent by	Specimen	Pos.	Neg.
Regional Hospital Board Physician	Sputum for B. Tuberculosis	1	Not available
General Practitioner	Throat swabs for pathogenic organisms	17	52
Medical Officer of Health	Swabs for food poisoning organisms	-	2
Medical Officer of Health	Food for food poisoning organisms	2	1
- do -	Mice for food poisoning organisms	-	1
General Practitioner	Faeces for pathogenic organisms	47	16
Medical Officer of Health	- do -	116	349
28, Sensitivity tests were carried out.			

Ambulance Facilities.

The ambulance service is provided by Northumberland County Council. Three ambulances and three drivers are stationed at Broomhill.

Other parts of the Rural District are served by ambulances stationed at Ashington and Morpeth.

Nursing in the Home.

The domiciliary nursing service is provided by Northumberland County Council.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

These are provided by the Northumberland County Council and Clinics are held regularly at Broomhill, Pegswood, Widdrington, Lynemouth, Linton, Longhorsley, Hartburn and Acklington Aerodrome.

Infant Welfare Clinics.

The County Council has its own modern building at Broomhill but elsewhere the clinics are held in hired premises such as church halls, social clubs or miners' welfare buildings. Plans are, however, being made to provide specially built premises at Widdrington and Pegswood.

Home Help Service.

This service, provided by Northumberland County Council, has grown tremendously since the beginning of the National Health Service in 1948. The great majority of the persons receiving help are aged and infirm and there can be no doubt that the service supplies a great need and plays a valuable part in enabling old people to continue living in their own homes, where most of them want to be. Unfortunately, in some cases, the service appears to provide relatives with a means of avoiding family responsibilities. Some abuse of the service seems inevitable but this is greatly outweighed by the good which it does.

Section C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.Water Samples.

Samples of private and public water supplies were collected and forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory service at Newcastle upon Tyne for bacteriological examination.

The source of those samples returning unsatisfactory results were further investigated and recommendations were made for effecting improvement, following which repeat samples were obtained.

Altogether 124 samples of water were collected and the following table gives the date and place of collection together with the result of the bacteriological examination in each case.

No.	Place of Collections.	Result	Date.
1.	Tap, Needless Hall, Meldon	50 per 100 ml.	9. 1. 62.
2.	Tap, No. 6 Cottage, Netherwitton	17 " 100 ml.	9. 1. 62.
3.	Pipe end, Folly House Netherwitton	50 " 100 ml.	9. 1. 62.
4.	Tap, Hagg Farm, Causey Park	2 " 100 ml.	16. 1. 62.
5.	Tap, Bridge End Cottage, Felton	35 " 100 ml.	16. 1. 62.
6.	Tap, Wintrick Farm, Felton	160 " 100 ml.	16. 1. 62.
7.	Tap, The Cottage Back Drive, Eshott	13 " 100 ml.	16. 1. 62.
8.	Tap, Home Farm, Eshott	Nil " 100 ml.	23. 1. 62.
9.	Tap, Wintrick Farm, Eshott	17 " 100 ml.	23. 1. 62.
10.	Tap, Tilesheds Cottage, Thirston	20 " 100 ml.	23. 1. 62.
11.	Tap, Cottage Back Drive, Eshott	2 " 100 ml.	30. 1. 62.
12.	Reservoir, Eshott, Felton	8 " 100 ml.	30. 1. 62.
13.	Reservoir, Tilesheds Pump House	2 " 100 ml.	30. 1. 62.
14.	Reservoir, Source of Spring, Tilesheds Felton	Nil " 100 ml.	30. 1. 62.
15.	Tap, Gladstone's Buildings, Longhorsley	Nil " 100 ml.	30. 1. 62.
16.	Tap, Abbey Mills Farm, Morpeth	Nil " 100 ml.	6. 2. 62.
17.	Tap, Long Lea, Netherwitton	Nil " 100 ml.	6. 2. 62.
18.	Tap, No. 6 Cottage, Netherwitton	Nil " 100 ml.	6. 2. 62.
19.	Tap, The Cottage, Netherwitton Hall	Nil " 100 ml.	6. 2. 62.
20.	Tap, Earsdon Mill, Morpeth	5 (type 1)	13. 2. 62.
21.	Tap, West Earsdon	Nil per 100 ml.	13. 2. 62.
22.	Tap in dairy, Earsdon Hill, Morpeth	Nil " 100 ml.	13. 2. 62.
23.	Tap, Bridge House, Causey Park	25 " 100 ml.	13. 2. 62.
24.	Tap, Low Espley, Morpeth	8 (type 1)	20. 2. 62.
25.	Tap, Espley Hall, Morpeth	3 per 100 ml.	20. 2. 62.
26.	Tap, Oak Inn, Causey Park Bridge	25 " 100 ml.	20. 2. 62.
27.	Reservoir, Causey Park Bridge	1 " 100 ml.	20. 2. 62.
28.	Tap, Northgate Hospital	1 (type 1)	27. 2. 62.
29.	Tap, Northgate Hospital	Nil per 100 ml.	27. 2. 62.
30.	Tap, Earsdon Moor, Morpeth	Nil " 100 ml.	27. 2. 62.
31.	Pump, Oak Inn, Causey Park, Morpeth	1 " 100 ml.	27. 2. 62.
32.	Tap, Northgate Hospital	Nil " 100 ml.	6. 3. 62.
33.	Tap, Northgate Hospital	Nil " 100 ml.	6. 3. 62.
34.	Tap, Thirston New Houses	Nil " 100 ml.	6. 3. 62.
35.	Tap, East Fenrother, Morpeth	Nil " 100 ml.	6. 3. 62.
36.	Tap, North High Moor, Longhorsley	1 (type 1)	13. 3. 62.
37.	Tap, South High Moor, Longhorsley	Nil per 100 ml.	13. 3. 62.
38.	Tap, North Birks, Longhorsley	Nil " 100 ml.	13. 3. 62.
39.	Tap, Southward Edge, Longhorsley	3 " 100 ml.	13. 3. 62.
40.	Tap, East Edington, Whalton	3 " 100 ml.	20. 3. 62.
41.	Tap, West Edington, Whalton	7 & 5 (type 1)	20. 3. 62.
42.	Pump Meldon Station, Morpeth	Nil per 100 ml.	20. 3. 62.
43.	Pump Angerton Station House	1 " 100 ml.	20. 3. 62.
44.	Cistern Inlet, West Edington	Nil " 100 ml.	27. 3. 62.
45.	Tap, Highlaws Cottages, Angerton	3 " 100 ml.	27. 3. 62.
46.	Tap, Angerton Steads, Morpeth	Nil " 100 ml.	27. 3. 62.
47.	Tap, Lough House, Morpeth	8 " 100 ml.	3. 4. 62.
48.	Tap, The Oaks, Abshiel, Morpeth	5 " 100 ml.	3. 4. 62.
49.	Tap, Stanton House, Morpeth	8 " 100 ml.	3. 4. 62.
50.	Tap, Haredean, Longhorsley	1 " 100 ml.	3. 4. 62.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Place of Collection.</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Date</u>
51.	Tap, Fieldhead, Causey Park	Nil per 100 ml.	10. 4. 62.
52.	Tap, West Moor Plantation, Felton	1 (type 1)	10. 4. 62.
53.	Cistern, West Moor Plantation	1 (type 1)	10. 4. 62.
54.	Tap, Belamour, Longhorsley	1 (type 1)	10. 4. 62.
55.	Tap, Longdyke, Causey Park	25 per 100 ml.	17. 4. 62.
56.	Tap, Bellamour, Longhorsley	17 " 100 ml.	17. 4. 62.
57.	Tap, Middle Fenrother, Morpeth	1 " 100 ml.	17. 4. 62.
58.	Spring, Jackson's Bungalow Shadfen	Nil " 100 ml.	1. 5. 62.
59.	Spring, Donnell's Bungalow Shadfen	35 " 100 ml.	1. 5. 62.
60.	Spring, Cresswell Village	Nil " 100 ml.	1. 5. 62.
61.	Tap, Sawmill Cottage, Cresswell	Nil " 100 ml.	1. 5. 62.
62.	Pipe end, Rugley Walls, Cambo	3 " 100 ml.	8. 5. 62.
63.	Tap, No. 3 Back Row, Cambo	Nil " 100 ml.	8. 5. 62.
64.	Tap, The Cafe, Wallington	Nil " 100 ml.	8. 5. 62.
65.	Tap, The Portico, Wallington	Nil " 100 ml.	8. 5. 62.
66.	Tap, The Barns, Netherwitton house	Nil " 100 ml.	15. 5. 62.
67.	Tap, The Barns, Netherwitton Byre	Nil " 100 ml.	15. 5. 62.
68.	Tap, Park Head, Netherwitton	3 " 100 ml.	15. 5. 62.
69.	Tap, Doe Hill, Netherwitton	11 " 100 ml.	15. 5. 62.
70.	Tap, Eshottheugh, Felton	50 " 100 ml.	22. 5. 62.
71.	Tap, Bockenfield, Felton	Nil " 100 ml.	22. 5. 62.
72.	Tap, Burgham Farm, Morpeth	180+ " 100 ml.	22. 5. 62.
73.	Tap, Gorfenletch, Morpeth	180+ " 100 ml.	22. 5. 62.
74.	Tap, Smallholdings, W/Stobswood	Nil " 100 ml.	29. 5. 62.
75.	Tap, Tilesheds Cottage, Eshott	Nil " 100 ml.	29. 5. 62.
76.	Tap, 87 Simenside Tce E/Chev.	Nil " 100 ml.	29. 5. 62.
77.	Tap, 17 Chibburn Ave. Hadston	Nil " 100 ml.	29. 5. 62.
78.	Tap, Rose Villa, Ulgham	Nil " 100 ml.	19. 6. 62.
79.	Tap, 3, Ena Street, Widdrington	Nil " 100 ml.	19. 6. 62.
80.	Tap, Front St. Ellington	Nil " 100 ml.	19. 6. 62.
81.	Spring, Cresswell Village	5 " 100 ml.	19. 6. 62.
82.	Spring, Cresswell Village	11 " 100 ml.	26. 6. 62.
83.	Tap, 9, Market Sq. Lynemouth	Nil " 100 ml.	26. 6. 62.
84.	Tap, 6, Queen St. Lynemouth	1 " 100 ml.	26. 6. 62.
85.	Tap, Sawmill Cottage, Cresswell	Nil " 100 ml.	26. 6. 62.
86.	Tap, 8, School Row, Widd. Vill.	Nil " 100 ml.	10. 7. 62.
87.	Spring, Cresswell Village	Nil " 100 ml.	10. 7. 62.
88.	Tap, Hemelspeth, Felton	Nil " 100 ml.	17. 7. 62.
89.	Tap, Shothaugh, Felton	180+ " 100 ml.	17. 7. 62.
90.	Tap, West Howdens, Felton	Nil " 100 ml.	17. 7. 62.
91.	Tap, West Moor Plantation Felton	180+ " 100 ml.	17. 7. 62.
92.	Tap, Bywell, Morpeth	13 " 100 ml.	14. 8. 62.
93.	Tap, Hedley Wood, Longhorsley	35 " 100 ml.	14. 8. 62.
94.	Tap, Heatherlands, Longhorsley	3 (type 1)	14. 8. 62.
95.	Tap, 1 Normandy Tce. Longhorsley	Nil per 100 ml.	14. 8. 62.
96.	Tap, Gorfenletch, Longhorsley	180+ " 100 ml.	28. 8. 62.
97.	Tap, Linden Hillhead, Longhorsley	90 " 100 ml.	28. 8. 62.
98.	Tap, Smallburn, Longhorsley	180+ " 100 ml.	28. 8. 62.
99.	Tap, West Howdens Cottage, Felton	180+ " 100 ml.	4. 9. 62.
100.	Reservoir, Shothaugh, Felton	90 " 100 ml.	4. 9. 62.
101.	Reservoir, Linden Hillhead Longhorsley	Nil " 100 ml.	4. 9. 62.
102.	Tap, The Helm, Causey Park	1 (type 1)	25. 9. 62.
103.	Tap, Thirston Mill, Morpeth	180+ " 100 ml.	25. 9. 62.
104.	Well, West Howdens Felton Cottage	180+ " 100 ml.	25. 9. 62.
105.	Tap, East Linden, Longhorsley	180+ " 100 ml.	25. 9. 62.
106.	Tap, 1, New Cottages, Mitford	3 " 100 ml.	2.10. 62.
107.	Tap, Northside, Meldon	Nil " 100 ml.	2.10. 62.
108.	Tap, The Vicarage, Hartburn	Nil " 100 ml.	2.10. 62.
109.	Tap, Thistlecock, Meldon	Nil " 100 ml.	2.10. 62.
110.	Tap, Whemleyburn, Longhorsley	Nil " 100 ml.	16.10. 62.
111.	Tap, Fenrother Lane, Longhorsley	3 " 100 ml.	16.10. 62.
112.	Reservoir, Low Highlaws	13 " 100 ml.	16.10. 62.
113.	Tap, Low Highlaws, Longhorsley	17 " 100 ml.	16.10. 62.
114.	Tap, East Linden, Longhorsley	11 " 100 ml.	30.10. 62.
115.	Reservoir, East Linden	8 (type 1)	30.10. 62.
116.	Reservoir, Ghyllheugh	4 (type 1)	30.10. 62.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Place of Collection</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Date</u>
117.	Land spring, Ghyllhaugh	50 per 100 ml.	30.10.62.
118.	Tap, Harelaw, Longhorsley	1 " 100 ml.	13.11.62.
119.	Tap, Hedley Hillhead Longhorsley	1 (type 1)	13.11.62.
120.	Tap, Ghyllheugh, Longhorsley	Nil per 100 ml.	13.11.62.
121.	Tap, Oak Inn, Causey Park	11 " 100 ml.	11.12.62.
122.	Tap, Bridge House, Causey Park	160 " 100 ml.	11.12.62.
123.	Reservoir, Causey Park Bridge	2 " 100 ml.	11.12.62.
124.	Tap, The Hagg House Farm, Causey Park	20 " 100 ml.	11.12.62.

Water Supplies from Public Mains.

The figures given below are estimates of the numbers of houses and population supplied (a) direct to dwelling and (b) by standpipes.

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>DIRECT TO DWELLING</u>		<u>FROM STANDPIPES</u>	
	<u>No. of Houses</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>No of Houses</u>	<u>Population</u>
Cresswell	55	181	1	1
East Chevington	1030	3440	20	70
Ellington	379	1195	1	2
Hartburn	58	172	4	13
Hebron	99	325	-	-
Hepscott	123	417	2	7
Longhirst	154	451	2	6
Longhorsley	172	482	2	4
Lynemouth	777	2618	-	-
Meldon	74	250	-	-
Mitford	113	356	3	5
Netherwitton	84	253	-	-
Pegswood	767	2634	3	5
Thirston	142	421	-	-
Tritlington	66	216	-	-
Ulgham	672	2268	2	6
Wallington Demesne	133	430	-	-
West Chevington	24	106	4	12
Widdrington	68	249	9	25
	4990	16464	53	156

This indicates a further improvement and means that 95% of the houses are now supplied by public mains direct to the dwellings.

Sewerage and Drainage.

Works were commenced on the installation of a sewer and sewage works in the village of Ulgham. By the end of the year, 70% of the required works had been completed.

New drains with connections to the Council's sewer were provided at:-

Cresswell - 2
and with connections to septic tanks, at :-

Cresswell - 1
Longhorsley - 1
West Chevington - 1
Ulgham - 1

Conversion and abolition of the conservancy type of sanitary accommodation under section 47, Public Health Act, 1936, continues slowly and payment of grant was made in three instances only throughout the year.

Sewerage and Drainage cont'd.

At the end of the year it was estimated that there were remaining in use within the rural district some 188 conservancy type closets and every effort continues to be made to effect their abolition.

Public Cleansing.

Collection throughout the whole of the rural area of household refuse, continued satisfactorily within the limits of the available plant and labour force.

Some improvement of working conditions and of the service was effected by the bringing into operation in July of a third rear loading refuse collection vehicle of 16/18 cubic yards capacity, this was a replacement for a smaller side loading vehicle, and leaves one side loader only in service.

Informal action under section 75, Public Health Act, 1936, was taken throughout the year for the provision of 114 standard dust bins and 70 dust bins were provided to Council owned dwellings.

Refuse Disposal.

The seven existing disposal sites at Broomhill, East Chevington, Widdrington, Lynemouth, Longhirst, Pegswood and Longhorsley continue to be used and maintained to the best possible standard, within the limitations previously mentioned. The continuing increase in the amounts of paper in domestic refuse creates, on exposed disposal sites, a litter problem of growing magnitude.

Tipping on an additional site at Causey Park was commenced with the kind permission of the land owner who nevertheless refused to agree to the lease of the area concerned.

Every disposal site was regularly inspected and test-baited for vermin, and/or other nuisance and preventive action taken as found necessary.

A total of 184 visits were made on duties connected with the collection and disposal of household and trade refuse.

Caravans and Caravan Sites.

The demand for caravan sites for both holiday and residential purposes continued to increase and appears likely to continue to do so with the increasing popularity of caravan holidays and the cost and shortage of permanent housing.

A total of 297 visits were made in the investigation, inspection and control of caravans within the district.

Four applications, involving a total of 235 caravans, were received during the year for the use of land as sites for holiday caravans. Two of these only were resolved and licences issued, one for 56 caravans at West Chevington, and one at Cresswell for use of a caravan for special purposes.

Five applications were received for the use of land for residential purposes involving a total of thirty four caravans. A licence was issued in respect of one only and this was to allow the continued use of land at Ulgham as a site for 14 caravans.

Of the four applications refused an appeal against the planning decision was lodged in two instances and one of these, for an individual caravan at Priestbridge was upheld.

Renewal of planning permission for the continued use by the Council, of land at Cresswell for holiday caravans purposes, was received but, because of the need to meet the spacing requirements the number of caravans permitted to use the site reduced from approximately 200 to 142.

Public Conveniences.

New conveniences were provided at Blakemoor, Cresswell and at Lynemouth. Investigations are proceeding into the possibility of making similar provision at Cambo.

Damage by vandalism continues to be the major problem in the maintenance of these necessary amenities.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The rodent operative continued with his duties of regular inspection and treatment, as found necessary, of all Council properties including buildings and surface structures, refuse tips, sewers and sewerage disposal plants etc. Routine surveys were made of business and agricultural premises as the operative progressed through the various areas of the district and the following table gives details of the work undertaken.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Non-Agricultural				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses).	All other (Inc. Business Premises.)	Total of Cols 1,2,&3.	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	21	5070	224	5315	235
2. Total number of properties inspected as a result of notification.	2	40	19	61	9
Number of such properties found to be infested by:-					
Common Major	-	-	-	-	-
Rat:- Minor	1	20	13	34	4
Ship Major	-	-	-	-	-
Rat:- Minor	-	-	-	-	-
House Major	-	-	3	3	5
Mouse:- Minor	1	20	3	24	-
3. Total number of properties inspected in the course of survey under the Act	21	295	31	547	30
Number of such properties found to be infested by:-					
Common Major	-	-	-	-	-
Rat:- Minor	8	141	17	166	5
Ship Major	-	-	-	-	-
Rat:- Minor	-	-	-	-	-
House Major	-	-	1	1	1
Mouse:- Minor	-	20	6	26	1
4. Total number of properties otherwise inspected (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	-	-	-	-	-

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Non-Agricultural				(5) Agricultural
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses (Inc. Council Houses).	(3) All other (Inc. Business Premises.	(4) Total of Cols 1,2,&3.	
Number of such properties found to be infested by:-					
Common Major	-	-	-	-	-
Rat:- Minor	-	-	-	-	-
Ship Major	-	-	-	-	-
Rat:- Minor	-	-	-	-	-
House Major	-	-	-	-	-
Mouse Minor	-	-	-	-	-
5. Total inspections carried out including re-inspections.	79	535	50	664	10
6. Number of infested properties (in Sections 2,3 & 4) treated by the L.A.	10	201	43	254	37
7. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments.	44	161	23	228	10
8. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:-					
(a) Treatment	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Structural work (i. e. Proofing)	-	-	-	-	-
9. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sect. 4 of the Act	-	-	-	-	-
10. Legal Proceedings	-	-	-	-	-
11. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out.	-	-	-	-	-

N.B. The above table is a copy of the annual return to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food relating to the 12 months ended 31st December, 1962.

Mosquito Control.

There were no complaints of mosquito nuisance during the year but the suspected sites were visited and treatment undertaken as found necessary.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1959.

There is a total of 53 premises within the area which are registered under the requirements of the Factories Act. Five of these premises are without mechanical power.

There are no outworkers within the area.

1. INSPECTIONS.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(1) Factories in which Sects. 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	5	31	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sect.7 is enforced by the L.A.	39	63	1	-
(3) Other Premises in which Sect.7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding outworkers' premises)	9	29	-	-
Total	53	123	1	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H. M. (5)	
Want of Cleanliness	1	-	-	1	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floor	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	1	-	1	-

14.
SECTION D.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1962.

A total of 1073 separate visits were made to properties throughout the rural district for the purposes of repair, improvement, eradication of nuisance and other duties, under the requirements of the Housing and Public Health Acts.

Number of Houses completed during the year:

a) By Local Authority	71
b) By other bodies or persons	11

Closing and Demolition.

1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	30
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	2
3. Houses closed, not demolished	6
4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above	1

Repairs.

Houses made fit by procedure under either Housing or P.H. Acts.

1. By informal action	24
2. By owners, following statutory notice	1
3. By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
4. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	Nil

Houses Patched.

1. Houses in Clearance Areas still in use at end of year for temporary accommodation	Nil
--	-----

<u>A. Discretionary Grants.</u>	<u>No. of separate houses.</u>
---------------------------------	--------------------------------

1. Applications submitted to L.A. during year	19 (70 properties)
2. Applications rejected	Nil
3. Applications approved	18
4. Approximate average grant approved per house	£350-10-0d.
5. Total number of houses approved for grant in the area since inception of scheme.	481

B. Standard Grants.

	<u>During the Year</u>	<u>Total to Date</u>
1. Number of separate houses for which grants have been made.	13	42
2. Number of houses so provided with:		
a) Bath or shower	8	33
b) Wash hand basin	10	35
c) Hot water supply	7	24
d) Water Closet	11	35
e) Food store	6	19

15.
SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

No. of registered dairies 6

Samples of milk from retailers within the rural district continued to be taken by the County Health Inspector and these were as follows:-

Retailers Within Rural District:- 6

Pasteurised. 5

Tuberculin Tested 2

Pasteurised - Tuberculin Tested 5

Retailers Outside Rural District:- 3

Pasteurised 6

Tuberculin Tested 3

Pasteurised - Tuberculin Tested Nil

All samples satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.

All pasteurised samples satisfied the Phosphatase Test.

Two samples of raw T.T. milk were examined biologically for tuberculosis and Br. Abortus and proved negative.

Meat and Other Foods.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle exc. Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	517	-	1	1220	403	-
Number inspected	517	-	1	1220	403	-
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole Carcases condemned	-	-	-	5	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	139	-	-	1	47	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis & Cysticerci	26.86	-	-	.493	11.66	-
<u>Tuberculosis Only.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	1	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	.248	-
<u>Cysticercosis Only.</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treat ment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

The following foods were surrendered to the Council's Meat and Public Health Inspector.

Item	Tins	lbs.	ozs.
Corned Beef	1	6	-
Cooked Ham	2	20	4
Ham	1	13	7
Tongue	1	-	6
Bacon Joint	1	1	7
Chopped Pork & Tongue	1	-	13
Chopped Ham	1	4	-
Chopped Pork	1	-	12
Pork	1	-	12
Steak	3	2	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
Lamb Chops & Pork Sausage	2	1	15
Sausages	4	1	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Peas	41	28	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Beans	3	1	10
Tomatoes	33	36	12
Carrots	3	2	3
Beetroot	1	1	4
Cream of Chicken Soup	1	-	15
Ox Tail Soup	1	-	15
Beans in Tomato Sauce	1	1	-
Scotch Broth	1	-	15
Mixed Fruit Pudding	1	-	10
Plums	7	5	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Rice Pudding	12	11	-
Oranges	2	1	6
Strawberries	10	9	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Peaches	25	17	12
Pineapple	4	4	-
Grapefruit	13	14	14
Gooseberries	1	1	3
Rhubarb	2	1	13
Pears	13	12	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Evaporated Milk	10	-	-

Food Premises.

(a) The number of food premises registered in the area by type of business is as follows :-

Butchers	6
Bakers	3
General Dealers	50
	<u>59</u>

(b) The number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:-

Butchers	6
Fried Fish Shops	3
Sale of Ice-cream	43
No. of registered Dairies	6
	<u>58</u>

There was only one addition to the register during the year involving sale of ice-cream.

Altogether 636 visits were made to food premises and I am pleased to report that the general standard of hygiene remains good. Every effort is made to maintain this high standard by regular visits and by the distribution of educational posters etc.

17.
SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is provided by the Regional Hospital Board at Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne.

TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF
INFECTIOUS DISEASE UNDER AGE GROUPS.

Disease	Age Unknown	Under 1 year	1 - 2 years	3 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10 - 14 years	15 - 24 years	25 - 34 years	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years & over.	TOTAL
Food Poisoning	5	-	-	-	3	26	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	37
Influenzal Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	4
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Dysentery	-	2	12	16	29	3	5	18	3	1	4	1	-	94
Measles	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Total	5	2	14	17	34	29	9	18	4	1	4	2	1	140

Sonne Dysentery.

This disease was again prevalent in 1962, in the East Chevington, Red Row and South Broomhill area. The first cases were discovered at the beginning of March during which month 54 cases were either notified or ascertained among relatives of notified patients. A further 13 cases occurred in April, 7 in May and 5 in June. Out of a total of 94 confirmed cases, 79 occurred in the area already mentioned, 9 in North Broomhill, 5 at Widdrington Village and 1 at Acklington R.A.F. Station.

Red Row Infant School appeared to be the main centre of infection at the beginning of the outbreak, as 16 of the first 23 households affected had children attending this school: and two others, lived next-door to affected families with children attending the school. On inspection of the washing and toilet facilities it was found that these were inconveniently placed and not conducive to hygienic practices. This was brought to the notice of the Principal Assistant School Medical Officer who agreed to take the matter up with the Education Authority with a view to having improvements carried out.

Later in the outbreak it was obvious that the disease was spreading between children in neighbouring houses playing together.

Multiple cases occurred in many households. Five households had five cases, four had four cases, seven had three cases and seven had two cases each.

All contacts were investigated, three symptomless carriers were discovered and all infected persons were followed-up and school children excluded from school until they were considered free from infection.

Food Poisoning.

Three cases of food-poisoning due to *Salmonella Typhimurium* occurred in two households at widely differing times. In one household, one child was ill and another was found to be a carrier but the source of the infection was not discovered. In the second household, a young couple, husband and wife were infected and a foster-child, who had recently been left in their charge, was found to be a carrier. Investigation suggested that this child had been infected in another area, before coming to this house.

The remaining 34 cases of food-poisoning all occurred in one outbreak which followed the Christmas dinner at one of the schools in the district. The meal, consisting of roast pork, gravy, onion stuffing, apple sauce, roast and mashed potatoes, turnip, Christmas pudding and white sauce, was eaten by 14 visitors, 61 children and 8 members of staff. It was possible to obtain samples of the pudding, some dried milk left over after making the white sauce, and a small portion of pork for bacteriological examination. Coagulase-positive staphylococci were isolated from the milk and the pork.

Investigation of a number of cases and the kitchen staff discovered that one kitchen auxiliary was excreting coagulase-positive staphylococci. This woman denied having handled any of the food and, as she had eaten the dinner and the various organisms isolated proved untypable, no firm conclusion could be reached as to the cause of the outbreak.

Diphtheria.

During the past thirteen years no case of this disease has occurred and there has been no death from it since 1946.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

It is gratifying that, in spite of the prolonged absence of the disease from the community, parents continue to accept this protection for their children to such an extent that it has become almost a routine procedure.

This high level of acceptance is probably helped by the fact that protection is now given, simultaneously, against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus.

During 1962, the primary course of immunisation was given to 238 pre-school and 47 school children, while 333 pre-school and 207 school children were given re-inforcing injections.

Polio-myelitis Vaccination.

In the spring of 1962, oral vaccine for protection against Polio-myelitis was issued, by the Ministry of Health, for general use in this country. This was welcome because of the ease of administration, the reduction in the number of injections to which children are, now-a-days, submitted and the greater protection thought to be given by oral vaccine, both to the individual and to the community.

The primary course of two injections of Salk vaccine was given to 580 persons, and the primary course of three doses of oral vaccine to 1,447 persons. In addition 403 received a third injection, and 113 a fourth injection, while 2,081 received a dose of oral vaccine to re-inforce a primary course of two salk injections and 1,064 between the ages of 5 and 12 years were given a dose of oral vaccine to re-inforce three salk injections.

These figures refer to the whole of the Central Area of Northumberland.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1962.

Age Groups	New Cases				Tot.	Deaths			
	Resp.		Non-Resp			Resp		Non-Resp	
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 9 years	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
10 - 24 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 years	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54 years	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Total	1	1	-	1	3	-	-	-	-

During the year, 2 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and one new case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified but there were no deaths from any form of the disease.

The great improvement which has taken place in recent years is well-illustrated in the following table.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951
Notifications	2	1	1	1	5	7	10	6	12	10	11	13
Deaths	-	1	1	-	2	1	-	1	1	1	3	1
Non-Pulmonary												
T.B. Notifications	1	-	-	1	3	1	5	3	6	4	1	3
Deaths	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2

	1950	1949	1948
Notifications	12	16	7
Deaths	2	4	3
Non-Pulmonary			
T.B. Notifications	5	4	2
Deaths	1	1	2

Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis in Morpeth R.D.	Nil
Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis in England and Wales	0.059 per 1,000
Death Rate from Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis in Morpeth Rural District	Nil
Death Rate from Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis in England and Wales	0.007 per 1,000

MORTALITY FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS DURING 1962.

Site	Males						TOTAL	Females.						TOTAL	
	25 - 34 years	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years & over		0 - 4 years	25 - 34 years	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years		75 years & over
Mediastinum	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oesophagus	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lung & Bronchus	-	-	-	2	-	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
Stomach	-	-	-	-	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Pancreas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Bowel	1	-	-	1	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Cervix uteri	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Ovary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Bladder	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prostate	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rectum	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Vulva	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Testes	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Haematopoietic System	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Total	1	-	-	7	5	11	24	1	-	-	2	5	4	3	15

The total number of deaths increased from 28 in 1961 to 39 in 1962 but it may be of interest to note that, whereas in 1961 only 3 of those who died were aged 75 years or over, in 1962 there were 14 deaths in this age-group and of these, one was over 90 years, 4 were aged between 85 and 90 and 4 were aged 80 - 85.

Malignant Neoplasms of the Lung and Bronchus.

Death Rate in Morpeth Rural District
Death Rate in England and Wales

0.285 per 1,000
0.510 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All Other Sites.

Death Rate in Morpeth Rural District
Death Rate in England and Wales

1.942 per 1,000
1.667 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All Sites.

Death Rate in Morpeth Rural District
Death Rate in England and Wales

2.227 per 1,000
2.117 per 1,000

